

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and accompanying methods for use therein for implementing an integrated, virtual office user environment, through an office server(s), through which a remotely stationed user can access typical office network-based applications, including e-mail, file sharing and hosted thin-client programs, through a remotely located network, e.g., WAN, connected web browser. Specifically, a front end, namely a service enablement platform (SEP), to one or more office servers on a LAN is connected to both the WAN and LAN and acts both as a bridge between the user and his(her) office applications and as a protocol translator to enable bi-directional, web-based, real-time communication to occur between the browser and each such application. The SEP translates user input originating from the browser into application-specific protocols and applies a result to a corresponding office application server. Resulting output data provided by that server, if in non-graphical form, such as file and e-mail listings, is translated by the SEP into HTML data and provided to the user browser for display. Graphical display data generated by a hosted thin-client application program is provided by its office server to the SEP which translates the display data into an efficient transmission protocol (AIP). The transmitted AIP graphical display data is then converted into an appropriate display by an applet executing within the browser. Secure user access to the SEP is provided

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